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Sarajevo

 {sair-uh-yay'-voh}

Sarajevo is the capital of Bosnia and Hercegovina. Situated on the Miljacka River in a valley of the Dinaric Alps, the city stands near the foot of Mount Trebevic; its population is 525,980 (1991 est.). In 1992, Sarajevo captured the attention of the world when it was besieged by Serb forces during the civil war that followed Bosnia's declaration of independence from Yugoslavia. An international relief effort was mounted to bring food and medicines to the beleaguered city, which suffered severe damage in the fighting.

Sarajevo has a large Muslim population and counts a number of old mosques among its landmarks. The city grew up around a citadel built in the 13th century on a trade route through the mountains. It was part of the Ottoman Empire from the 15th century until 1878, when it came under Austrian rule. In 1914 it was the scene of the assassination of Archduke FRANZ FERDINAND of Austria, the event that triggered the start of World War I. Sarajevo was the site of the Winter Olympic Games in 1984.

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